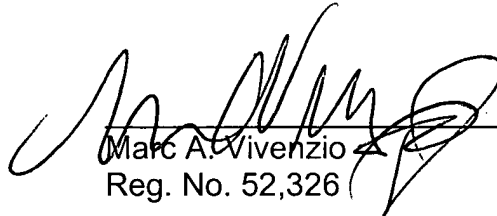


REMARKS

By this preliminary amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings for each section pursuant to 37 CFR 1.77(c). Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 1-45 in an effort to better conform the claims, which were originally written in a European format, to customary U.S. practice. No new matter has been added to the application.

Respectfully Submitted,
LORUSSO LOUD & KELLY LLP

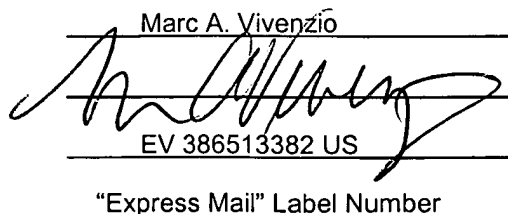

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I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment along with any attachments referred to therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 16, 2004.

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